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## Appointment Goof

**R**onald Reagan is a man of several distinctions—first divorcé, first film star and oldest individual to be elected President of the U.S.

An additional distinction is that he is the first President to pay off his political campaign manager—William “Spacey” Casey—by appointing him Director of Central Intelligence. (If the truth be known, however, Stuart Spencer and Mike Deaver were the masterminds of Reagan’s successful 1980 Presidential campaign, not Casey.)

Nevertheless, Casey, 69, a multimillionaire lawyer and former head of the Securities Exchange Commission, got the Central Intelligence job. And from many accounts, his job performance to date leaves much to be desired.

Several weeks ago, the House Intelligence Committee approved a staff report



William Casey

criticizing the performance of our intelligence agencies in Central America. “At this time,” said Rep. Charles Rose (D., N.C.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Evaluation.

“I am not accusing the intelligence community of having given in to the pressure that the policymakers have applied. But there have been sloppiness, inaccuracies and overstatements that, if not corrected, logically could lead to the intelligence community being manipulated by Administration policy rather than policy being guided by properly evaluated intelligence.”

Like Rose, other members of Congress contend that Reagan created special problems in the intelligence community when he appointed Casey. Reagan probably will be the first and last President guilty of such a gaffe.